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Title: Need to extend rail line from Gunupur to Bissamcuttack in Orrisa.

SHRI ANADI SAHU (BERHAMPUR, ORISSA): The Nauapada-Gunupur narrow-gauge line of the East Coast Railways is being converted to broad-gauge. This is a good piece of work.

However, the hinterland of Gajapati, Rayagada and Kalahandi districts of Orissa cannot be connected to the Sea Coast unless the Railway line is extended from Gunupur to Bissamacuttack. With two aluminium plants coming up at Kasipur and Langigada in Orissa and the fair weather port of Gopalpur is being proposed to be made a major port, there is a necessity of the shortest rail link to Gopalpur for import and export. Gopalpur has already been declared as a Special Economic Zone. Thus there is a necessity of extending the railway line from Gunupur to Bissamacuttack.

I would request the Ministry of Railways to take appropriate steps in this regard.